The Call Letter

April 2000
Vol. 26 — No. 4

25th Anniversary Celebration!

Members are cordially invited to attend the

Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday, April 8, 2000 at 10 AM

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the

Northwest Vintage Radio Society.

Spouses are most welcome!

The luncheon menu features:

Lasagna
Salad
French bread
Cake

On Display:

The Club Scrapbook
25 years' worth of Call Letters
Our mascot radio, the Hunkerdyne

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are $15.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The *Call Letter* has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

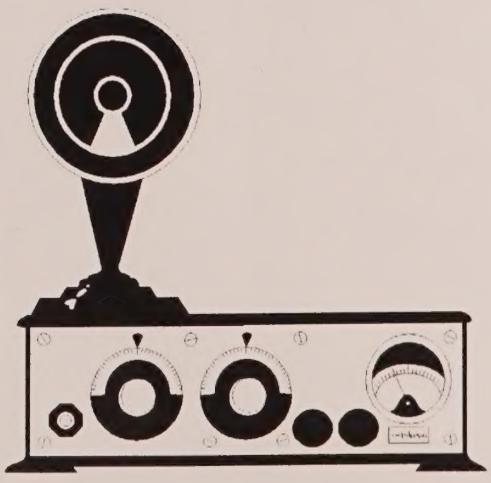
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 2000:

President	Charles Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Dave Rutland	(541) 929-4498
Call Letter Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

The Society's address is:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society
Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



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On the cover: It's your special invitation to our 25th anniversary celebration.

Call Letter Deadline: 10 days prior to meeting day.

The next meeting is on April 8. Special this month — 25th Anniversary luncheon following the meeting. Monthly feature: Radio-related items from the 1915 to 1925 period (the stuff they collected in 1975) Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!

Visit our web site at http://nwvrs.org.

The *Call Letter* is the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Circulation is limited to the membership and guests of the Society. The Society is not responsible for the material contributed for publication, nor the quality, timeliness, or accuracy of the items offered for sale in the SWAP SHOP. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

From the Editor

by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

This is a big month for the club! The April 8th meeting will conclude with a luncheon in celebration of the club's 25th anniversary. Vice President George Kent and his committee have a great event planned. Look for pictures in next month's *Call Letter.*

In this issue is an announcement of the death of Dr. Ralph William Muchow, well known among collectors as having one of the world's largest collections of antique radios. The article was copied from the Chicago Tribune and posted to the rec.antiques.radio+phono discussion group where I read it. I don't recall where I first heard of Dr. Muchow, but it probably was in the article about him in the Smithsonian magazine, which I recall reading a while back.

Dan Howard has supplied us with a short history of CONELRAD, the precursor to the Emergency Broadcast System. I'm sure most of us remember the little triangular marks on radio dials of the '50s.

The editorial that I promised at the last meeting about raising the dues appears in this issue. I'd like to get some other opinions and bring some of the debate to these pages over the next few months before we decide.

NWVRS 2000 Calendar of Events

April 8	Regular monthly meeting followed by 25th Anniversary luncheon.
May 13	Regular monthly meeting.
May 20	Spring Swap Meet, NG Armory at Wash. Co. fairgrounds in Hillsboro.
July 16	Forest Grove Concours D'Elegance. Tentative NWVRS display. Contact Jerry Talbott at (503) 649-6717.
August 12	Summer Swap at Abernethy Grange (normal meeting place).
September 9	Regular monthly meetings resume after Summer break.
October 7	Fall Swap Meet, NG Armory at Wash. Co. fairgrounds.
October 14	Regular monthly meeting.

Meeting Minutes

by Wendy Johnson-Kent for Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

The March 11, 2000 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society was called to order by President Charlie Kent at 10:07 AM. There were 33 present.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved after one correction of Del Dixon looking for a couple of tube caddies instead of John Bucholtz.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Charman reported the income and expenses for the month resulting in a net balance of $576.92. There are approximately 50 people who still need to pay their dues (approximately 1/3 of the membership).

New Members/Guests

Roger Rose from Tigard came to our meeting to check us out and see what we're all about. He joined our club at the end of the meeting. A most warm and friendly welcome to Roger!

The Call Letter

Rick Walton still needs members to give him articles for *The Call Letter.* Another well-deserved round of applause was given to our editor with a special note of thanks for the picture and obtaining the eulogy of Peter Young.

Old Business

Swap Meet. Wendy Johnson-Kent gave an update on our May 20th swap meet. Table sales are going well and we will be offering 13 tables to the Triode Society for rent. Sonny Clutter suggested we have a higher price of $25.00 per table for those who use our swap meet, but do not join our club. This will be instigated with this meet. There will be new shortened hours from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the hope more table space renters will stay the full five hours of the meet. Dick Bixler suggested only items of a NWVRS nature be sold (i.e. only radio-related items). This will be noted on the renter's handout that will be made available at next month's meeting. Dick Dielschneider suggested we have a sign up sheet at the meet to notify individuals of the next meet.

Library. John Bucholtz reported he had brought a different selection of books to the meeting for those interested.

Name Tags. A club XL jacket and white-billed hat are for sale for $10.00 by a club member. This is about a 50% savings. See Gordon Phillips is you are interested in purchasing and also if you'd like to have your name added to the list of getting a name tag made the next time they are ordered (after collecting about 6 or so names). The cost is $6.00.

Jim Mason's Legacy. John Bucholtz once again suggested that Jim Mason's monies be put at least into a savings account to obtain a little bit of interest. Dick Bixler suggested that perhaps in the future a scholarship could be awarded from the proceeds of Jim Mason's legacy. After discussion, it was decided that Ed Charman would place the monies in a First Investors or Columbia Growth Funds money market account to obtain a return of approximately 5.9%.

Dues. George Kirkwood presented the idea of increasing our club dues. Extensive discussion followed. Rick Walton is going to write an editorial on this subject for the Call Letter. It was realized this is for next year and that a decision would have to be made by September.

Leads and Needs

Gordon Phillips displayed a radio he needed knobs for and Jerry Talbot and Charlie Kent both said they had them.

Jerry Talbot knows of a Hallicrafters SF2 for $150, plus shipping, if anyone is interested.

Scott Hoke is still looking for those items listed in last month's *Call Letter.* He is also looking for a Spartan 1567 P/N A-12064-2 first and second IF cans, speaker and leather tuning belt.

Rick Walton received a call on a RCA console that he will put in *The Call Letter.*

Dave Brown bought an estate and has for sale 6 consoles and 6 hi-boys.

Ray Elkins is looking for a Buckingham 80 escutcheon.

This Month's Program

Urea, plaskon and bakelites – Members presented their contributions and awards were made.

Next Month's Program

Anything radio-related from 1915-1925 to fit with our 25th anniversary theme.

The meeting ended with George Kirkwood telling of next month's 25th anniversary celebration. After an abbreviated meeting, a luncheon will be served and a cake presented on behalf of the club. Spouses are encouraged to attend and partake in the fun – just come one, come all!

The meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting, Charlie Kent held the first in, hopefully, a series of Radio Restoration Classes. His contribution was on bakelite repair and lasted about an hour. There were 10 in attendance and I'm sure all found something that was most useful to them that he presented. Thank you, Prez!

An Editorial Opinion

by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

At the March meeting Vice President George Kirkwood proposed raising the membership dues to $25, thus opening the subject once again. It's a subject that comes up from time to time, and it came up this time because the club treasury is being depleted more rapidly than it is being replenished, a situation that cannot continue indefinitely.

There are several reasons why this situation exists:

- In the last year we moved to a new meeting place that costs more than our previous location
- Costs for producing and mailing the *Call Letter* have increased.
- Expenses associated with the Swap Meets have risen.
- We've chosen to bear the expense of maintaining a web site.

These are just the things that I can remember off the top of my head, and I don't have any figures at hand to give you detailed reports. Nonetheless, the costs of these things have risen, and these are things that most seem to feel are improvements.

Unlike other occasions when the club has discussed raising dues, I didn't hear immediate rejection of the idea. In fact, I had the impression that most (but certainly not all) present felt a dues increase is justified, an opinion that I personally share. There is greater disagreement about how large the increase should be. There was some agreement with the $25 that George proposed, but I also heard a fair amount of support for an increase to $20. I tend to agree with those who fear that too steep an increase will drive away members, especially members living outside the Portland and Western Oregon areas whose main contact with the club is through the *Call Letter.* Yet I think we all realize that without some increase, we will

be forced to lower the quality of the very things that seem to be attracting members to our club.

It might also be good to keep in mind that we have not had a dues increase in almost fifteen years. A search through the meeting minutes in past *Call Letters* revealed that at the meeting of September 14, 1985, "the membership voted to approve the change in the By-laws raising the annual dues from $12.50 to $15.00 for regular members and from $10.00 to $12.00 for associate members, effective January 1986."

Whatever we decide, we have the benefit of not being rushed to make that decision. The earliest any increase in dues could take effect is January of next year, which gives us plenty of time to thoroughly debate if we raise the dues, and if so, by how much. My vote is for $20.

Making Brass Knob Inserts

Posted to rec.antiques.radio.phono

Acting on a suggestion from Bill Noble (see below), I was able to make a purty good reproduction brass knob insert for my Philips Philetta. You have seen a zillion brass inserts like this -- domed or slightly conical in shape, and they fall off like autumn leaves as soon as the old glue dries out.

It was easier than I thought to make a new one. This page shows a couple of pictures, if you're interested:

http://antiqueradio.org/phil05.htm

If you're not interested in reading a web page, I basically just found a wooden dowel of the right diameter, sanded its end into a shallow cone shape, found a piece of metal with the same sized hole, put the sheet brass in between dowel form and hole, and gave it a sharp rap. Then I cut out the resulting domed circle, smoothed the ragged edges, polished and lacquered it, and glued it on. If you wanted an insert with a sharper cone profile, rather than a dome, I guess you could make matching convex and concave forms and pound the brass between them.

I suppose this is all painfully obvious to anyone with metalworking experience, but I really appreciated Bill's tip, which led me to try something that was surprisingly simple. Now that I'm inspired (and have a bunch of leftover brass sheet), I can get to work on my TransOceanics with missing inserts.

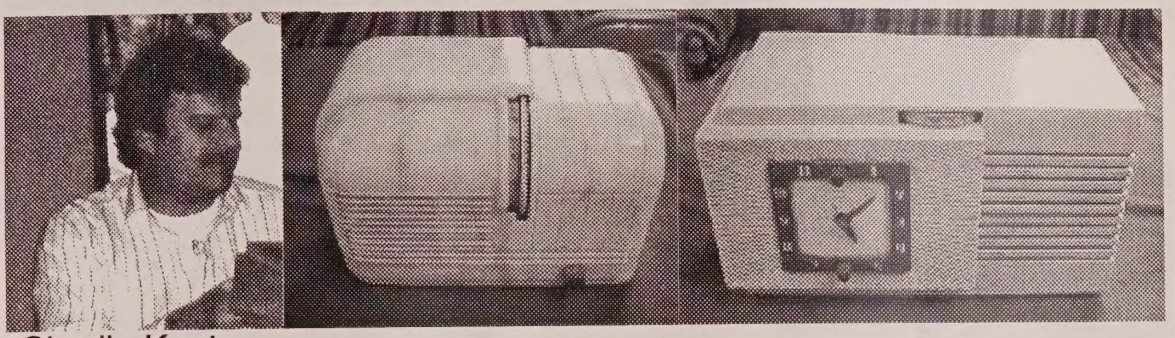
Thanks, Bill!

Phil philnelson@antiqueradio.org

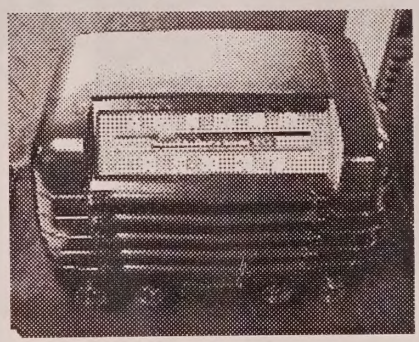
Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton and Dave Brown

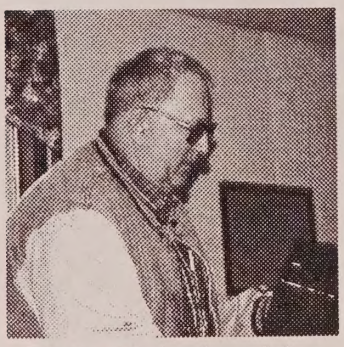
The collectors and their radios at the April meeting. Apologies to Steve Lohse, whose picture we missed.

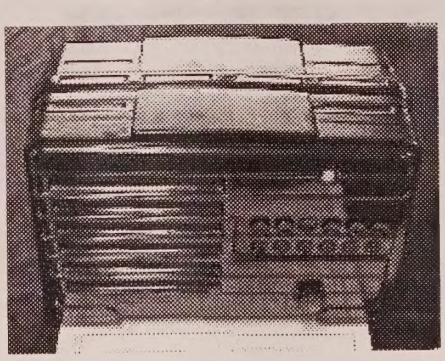


Charlie Kent



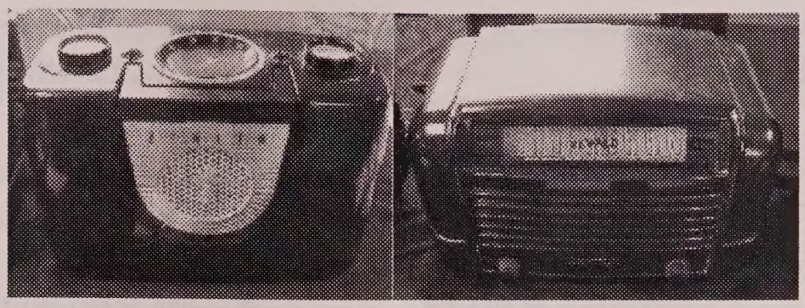
Del Dixon

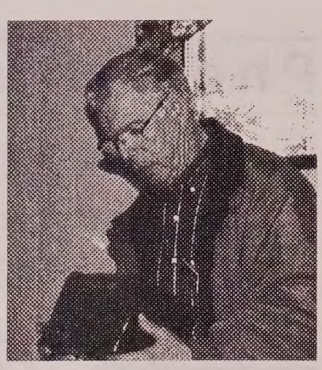




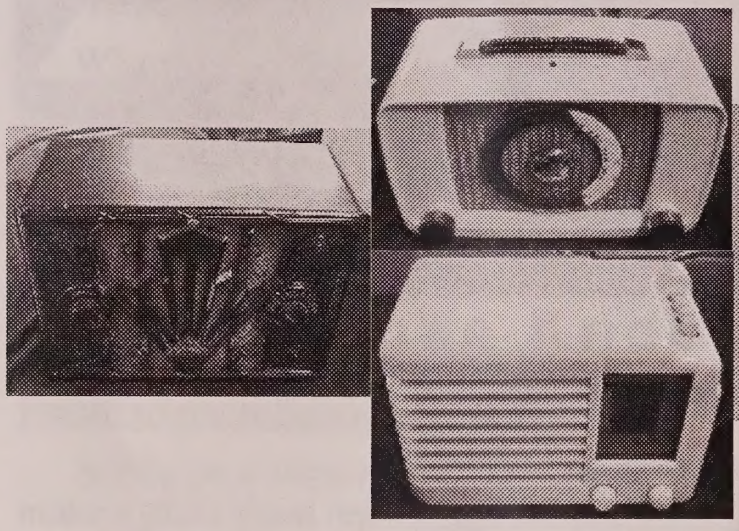
Dick Dielschneider

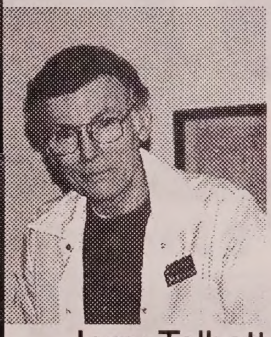
Steve Lohse's Airline radio.





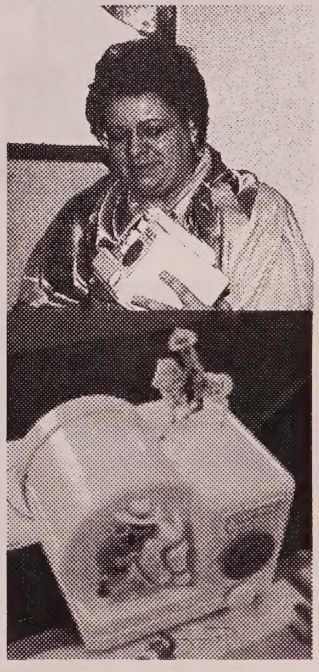
Ed Pittaway

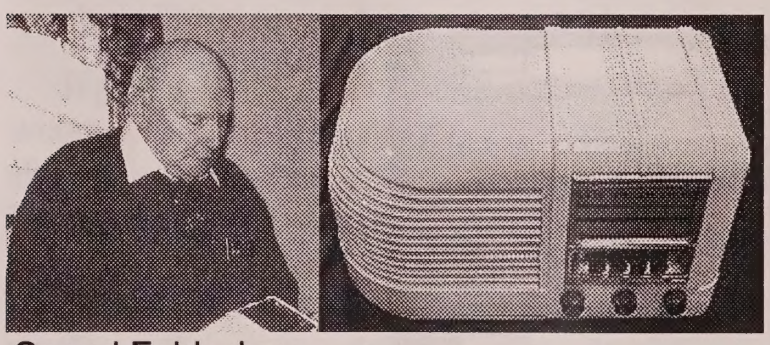




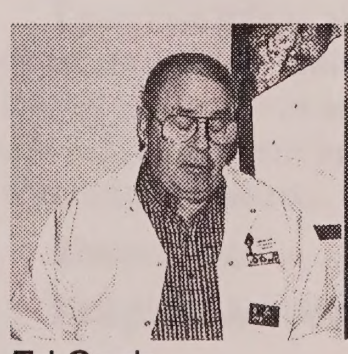
Jerry Talbott

Wendy Johnson-Kent

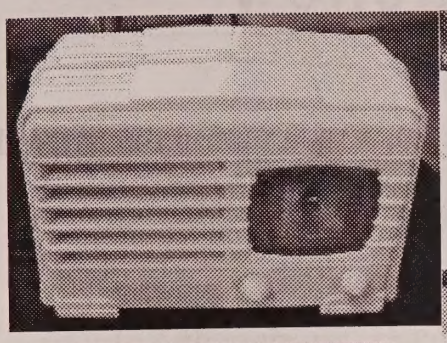


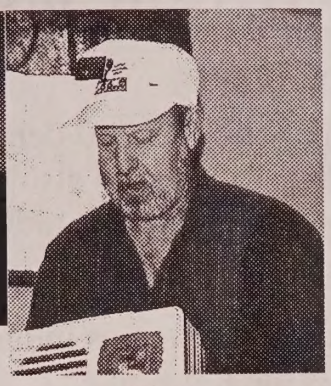


Speed Feldschau

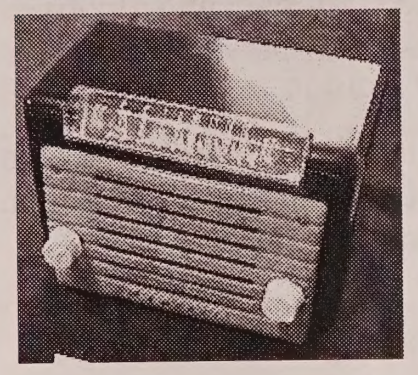


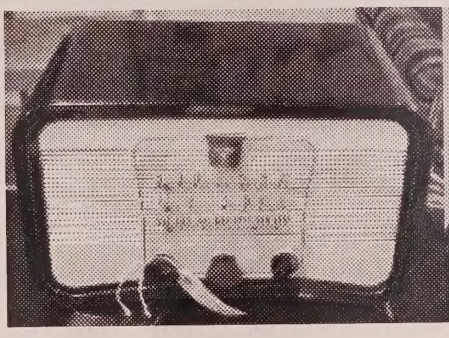
Ed Cook

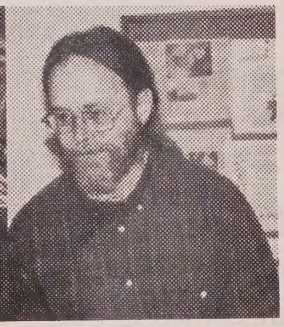




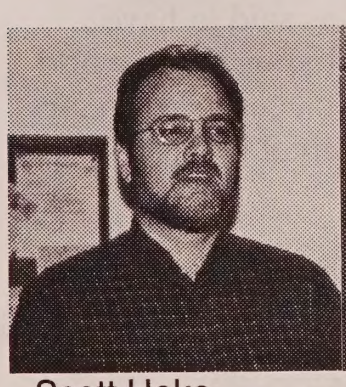
Sonny Clutter



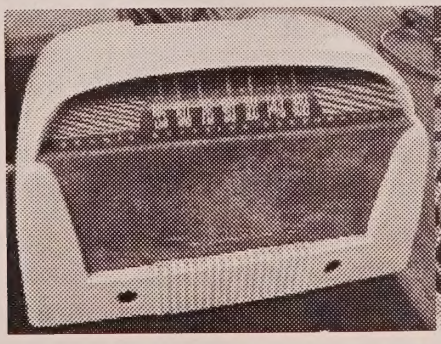




Myron White



Scott Hoke



Rick Walton

Dr. Ralph William Muchow

Copied from the Chicago Tribune:

Dr. Ralph William Muchow, a retired dentist, was a nationally ranked Ping-Pong player in the late 1930s who also operated a private, not-for-profit museum of 3,400 working antique radios.

Dr. Muchow, 83, died Saturday, March 4, in his home.

The 54-year Elgin resident, who was inducted into the city's Sports Hall of Fame in 1988, was the top-ranked table-tennis player in Illinois and second nationwide in open play from 1937 to 1939.

"Ralph was a Ping-Pong champion during his college years," said Don Sleeman, a friend and fellow member of American Legion Post 57, Elgin. "He was fantastic. He was a real nice guy, a good guy."

Dr. Muchow retired in 1999 as a dentist in Elgin after more than 50 years in private practice. He was president of the Elgin and Fox Valley Dental Societies in the 1950s.

Dr. Muchow received his dental degree from Northwestern University Dental School, Chicago, in 1940. He served in the Army as head of the dental survey office at Camp Ellis in Illinois and at Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek, Mich., during World War II.

Dr. Muchow's collection of antique radios was featured in the February 1997 issue of Smithsonian magazine. He was said to have accumulated the largest private collection of antique radios in the world during the previous 30 years. He showed off his rare pieces to collectors once a year during Radiofest, an annual statewide festival for radio enthusiasts.

"He had an extremely in-depth radio museum," Sleeman said.

"He got me interested in my profession, electronics," said his son Stephen, an electronics engineer. "He was always interested in radio. He got me and my brother Dave involved. He involved the family in his activities. The museum was a family affair. We all got involved in maintaining it. He enjoyed that."

In addition to his sons, survivors include his wife, Carole; a sister, Phyllis Williamson; two brothers, Gordon and John; and three grandchildren.

CONELRAD

contributed by Dan Howard

Have you ever wondered what those "CD" triangles on the dials of 50's and 60's radios mean? Well, most of us know that the triangles mark the frequencies of the CONELRAD emergency broadcast system. But I, for one, never knew much more than that. Recently the following description came my way.

CONELRAD (CONtrol of ELectromagnetic RADiation) is a method of using electrical radiations as a defense measure. Its purpose is to deny the enemy use of our electromagnetic radiations for navigational purposes in attacks on the United States, its territories, and possessions.

The Federal Communications Commission regulates CONELRAD programs implemented by the various radio services. As applied to broadcasting companies, CONELRAD works as follows:

During an alert, FM and TV broadcast stations are silenced, but designated AM stations use 640 or 1240 kilocycles to broadcast essential new, information, and civil defense instructions. This operation is juggled in such a way as to confuse the enemy regarding the location of participating stations. The alert is sounded by the Air Defense Command of the Air Force.

Tests of the CONELRAD broadcast system indicate that it is performing satisfactory. Air Defense Command observations showed that broadcast operations under CONELRAD are of no value to a possible air enemy. Broadcasting of civil defense information to the public has been adequate in approximately 80 percent of cities having CONELRAD stations.

The FCC recently extended the CONELRAD plan to aeronautical radio stations, public safety systems, and the amateur radio service.

In event of an alert, aeronautical radio stations would operate under instructions from the CAA Air Route Traffic Control Centers. The public safety systems would be subject to direction of the Air Defense Control Center of the Air Force. All amateur stations would cease operation unless specifically authorized by the FCC to continue on the air.

It is expected that virtually all radio stations licensed by the FCC will eventually be included in CONELRAD programs.

CONELRAD plans have also been developed for United States territories and possessions. Methods of exchanging air defense warnings between the United States and Canada and between the United States and Cuba are also complete.

From: NAVPERS 10229-B Naval training manual for Radioman 1st Class and Chief (1958 edition) pg. 75.

Swap Shop

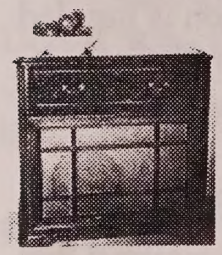
FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 6111 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, OR, (503) 774-6560.

BUY, SELL, & TRADE: Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi. Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: < http://www.radiolaguy.com > or e-mail me at: < sonny @radiolaguy.com >
Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

WANTED: The Crystal Radio Guy wants crystal sets and toy germanium diode radios. Buy outright, or trade for other radios. Galen (503) 231-9708.

WANTED: I'm looking for the following items:
1) Speaker for a Philco Model 41-220
2) Dial handle (with gold accent center) for a Emerson 706B
3) Isolation Transformer
Scott Hoke (503) 646-9392

Leads and Needs



RCA Victor U-43 Console Radio Phono. Original changer replaced with 4-speed changer years ago. Contact Rob Howells, 246-0010. He also has a collection of classical 78's.

Roster Corrections and Additions

Last month we misprinted Chuck's ZIP code and failed to include his e-mail address.

Be on the lookout for new rosters really soon!

Forsberg, Chuck A. **R**
10255 NW Cornelius Road
Portland, OR 97231
(503) 614-9206 caf@omen.com
Late 30's radios.

Meeting Location!

Our monthly meetings are held in the Abernathy Grange Hall, located at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City. Here are instructions for getting there and a map.

1. Take the OR-213 exit, exit number 10, towards PARK PLACE/MOLALLA.
2. From the South, turn RIGHT onto SR-213, or from the North, keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp and merge onto SR-213.
3. Turn LEFT at the first traffic light onto CLACKAMAS RIVER DR.
4. Turn RIGHT onto S FORSYTHE RD.
5. Turn LEFT onto S HARLEY AVE. The Abernathy Grange Hall is a little past S. Taylor Lane.

The written instructions came from "Map Quest" on the Internet; the map is scanned from a AAA map with much detail removed for the sake of clarity.

NW Vintage Radio Society
P.O. Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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2000

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